SPORTS
Women's Soccer Season
Brennan '25 delves into women's soccer season highlights and losses. **page 12**

A&E
HalloWellin
Roberts '24 gives an inside peek into band performances at the Wellin's Halloween event. **page 9**

FEATURES
Alumni Spotlight
Tortusa '25 looks into Thomas Meehan '51, playwright of the popular musical *Annie*. **page 5**

The Spectator

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Volume LXVI
Number VII

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Hamilton faculty makes national headlines

by Nicole Greenberg '25
NEWS EDITOR

Two members of the Hamilton faculty made national headlines in recent weeks with op-eds responding to current events, including the Israel-Hamas War and the Senate's hold on the confirmation process for military personnel.

Maurice Isserman, the Publius Virgilius Rogers Professor of American History who joined the Hamilton faculty in 1990, wrote a piece titled "Why I Just Quit DSA" for *The Nation*, a biweekly magazine.

Professor Isserman is a founding member of the Democratic Socialists of America, but he recently quit to protest its "leadership's politically and morally bankrupt response to the horrific Hamas Oct. 7 anti-Jewish pogrom," he wrote in an op-ed. Isserman not only wrote about why he left the organization, but—as a longtime historian of leftist movements—also explained the origin of the group, when members joined largely due to opposition to the Vietnam War in the late 1960s. He then addressed a rapid growth in membership between 2016 and 2020, which impacted electoral politics on a local, state and national level.

Addressing the DSA's relationship with Israel and Palestine, Isserman noted changing group dynamics within the DSA that made "the issue of Palestine…ever more important in DSA's internal political culture." In a manner unlike the organization's response to other oppressed peoples, "concern for Palestine, entirely legitimate in itself, also served other purposes for DSA's new sectarian leadership, furnishing a convenient stick to beat DSA's moderate wing," Isserman claimed.

The responses to Isserman's piece have been wide ranging. Another op-ed titled "I'm a Proud Jewish DSA Member. Here's Why I'm Not Quitting" was published in *The Nation* just two days later. The story was also discussed in articles written by *Fox News* and the *New York Post*.

Professor Isserman shared a statement with *The Spectator* explaining why he wrote the piece and the feedback he has received:

"Within a day of the murderous assault on innocent civilians on Oct. 7 by Hamas, a right-wing fundamentalist terrorist group dedicated to the destruction of Israel (as well as the suppression of women, gays and any expression of dissent in Gaza), both Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the two best-known democratic socialists in America, condemned the attack in the strongest possible terms, with Sanders declaring that there was 'no justification' for it, and predicting that 'innocent people on both sides [that is, Israel and Palestine] will suffer hugely because of it.' Unfortunately—and unforgivably—the current leaders of Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), a group I helped found four decades earlier, could not bring themselves to honor the moral values of democratic socialism by offering a similarly straightforward and absolute condemnation of acts that no one, regardless of their political views, should regard as having anything to do with legitimate acts of 'resistance' or 'liberation.'"

Iserman continued, "I resigned from DSA on Oct. 9, and a few days later the *Nation* magazine approached me and asked if I would write an article explaining my decision. I agreed. Since my article's publication on Oct. 16, I have heard from literally hundreds of DSA members agreeing with my criticisms of the organization. Some, like me, have decided to quit; others will remain in DSA, and try to restore its earlier commitment to a peaceful and humane vision of social change. I don't have much confidence they will succeed, but I wish them the best in that effort. I remain, as I have been all my adult life, a democratic socialist, like Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (and also, like them, a supporter of both Israel's right to exist and Palestinian rights to statehood) – just one without an organizational home."

Ty Seidule, Visiting Professor of History and Executive Director of Common Ground, co-wrote an opinion piece with political strategist James Carville titled "Tuberville's 'hold' doesn't command respect" for *Stars and Stripes*—an outlet that "provides independent news and information to the U.S. military community."

The piece expresses the gravity of Alabama's Republican Senator Tommy Tuberville's eight-month 'hold' on general officer promotions. "Tuberville has single-handedly stopped flag officer promotions and reassignments," Seidule explained, seemingly as a result of a disagreement with Biden's policy in which "the military pays the travel costs for service members to receive reproductive care (often abortions) if they are in a state that does not allow them to access such care."

In a statement to *The Spectator* about writing this op-ed, Seidule wrote, "I wanted to put pressure on the U.S. Senate to lift Senator Tommy Tuberville's cruel and stupid ''hold" on generals' and admirals' promotions. I served in the military for 36 years. I know this is hurting military readiness and families. Our military is apolitical, but Sen Tuberville forces senior officers to be political pawns. I went on James Carville's podcast and wrote an Op-Ed with him to try to put pressure on the Senate. Unfortunately, our work has had no effect, but we aren't giving up. We will figure out different ways to educate the press and put pressure on the Senate to stop hurting our military at a particularly dangerous moment."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Isserman is the Publius Virgilius Rogers Professor of American History at Hamilton.

A look into current admissions at Hamilton

by Nicole Greenberg '25
NEWS EDITOR

Monica Inzer, Vice President for Enrollment Management, and John T. McLaughlin, Dean of Admission and Associate VP for Enrollment Management participated in an interview with *The Spectator* to answer questions about Hamilton's admissions policies. As the first early decision deadline in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's ruling against race-conscious programs at colleges and universities approaches, Hamilton Admissions must approach their process a bit differently.

How did affirmative action play into admissions before the ruling in Students for Fair Admission?

Inzer: I just would start and say, at a higher level, our goal every year is to admit the most talented, diverse, strong, interesting, different-from-each-other students that we can find for the college, and the diversity that we value as a community—not just in the admission office—has many dimensions. From our applicant pool of nearly 10,000, we are landing on a class of 480 that we hope reflects the world that our students will go into. So our selection process first and foremost values students who are academically strong and can be successful and thrive in our classroom, but it also values students who will contribute to the community in meaningful ways. So there are many things we look at. So much of the coverage about this topic focuses on one thing, race and ethnicity in particular, or there have been follow up questions on other one things. And in fact, it is many things when you're reviewing applications, diversity, socio-economically, geographically, ethnically, religion, political leaning and/or sexual orientation; all of that matters to us, and so it has been a factor of our selection process up until now and will be in permissible ways in the future as well.

McLaughlin: Prior to the most recent Supreme Court decision, a lot of this information was available on the application form itself, it was something that would come into our review process, regardless of whether or not the student decided to talk about aspects of their identity. It was something that was visible. What is changing now is that information as kind of a default checkbox is no longer being pulled into the review process. We'll no longer have a view into that. But the Supreme Court, in their judgment, did create a little bit of space for students, if they share that information in a way that connects to their individual experience, then that is something that could be considered judiciously, alongside all the other factors that Monica was talking about.

When you heard the decision, was there an aspect of the ruling that most concerned you? Was there a component of admissions you thought would be particularly complicated or difficult to tackle?

McLaughlin: This subject has been discussed for 15 years at the Supreme Court. Ever since Bakke (the ruling that established affirmative action as legal). There was a piece of the Court that said the reason why it's important to consider this information is because we believe that people from all sorts of different backgrounds have the opportunity to learn from one another, and the educational benefits for every single person in that community is enhanced by the opportunity to interact with different people. That was what was upheld again and again and again and again from Bakke to Grutter to Fisher I to Fisher II. This time, the Court decided to take a different stance. Given our belief that bringing people together, bringing different people together creates the opportunity for the best education, it was a little disappointing to see that shift. But the court did preserve some space around recruitment. So rather than thinking about what we can't do, we're trying to focus intently on the things we can do in order to bring in a diverse class.

Inzer: We were largely prepared for this decision. We were prepared for it to be even stricter. So, perhaps, in some ways, we were relieved that there were still some allowances and ways to consider peoples' backgrounds and identities when they choose to share that, and that was better than we had anticipated. It was this moment in time that we have been anticipating and waiting for planning responsibly and thoughtfully. What will we do if...? How will we respond to...? We had the information then to be able to continue with our work and I think we've got a really great plan in place. Fortunately, Hamilton has put tremendous resources behind recruitment diversity, socioeconomic diversity, financial aid access and need blind admission. All those things position us better than many colleges to be able to still admit a diverse class measure in many ways. But of course, we are going to be lawful and comply with all of the new restrictions that we have, but we have found some ways to still hopefully include information that is appropriate to include and consider and admit inclusively.

Can you share some of the specifics of the plan to promote a diverse incoming class?

Inzer: On the front end, we have always been committed to recruiting a diverse inquiry pool and applicant pool with where we travel, mailings, programming flyers and offerings, visits on and off campus. We are doubling down on all of that and with more intentionality. We are working with community based organizations in addition to high schools. We have a lot of information on our census data on where the most diverse populations live and the schools they attend, so we can still do all of those things. In fact, not only is it permissible, the Department of Education has encouraged us to do more of that so that when you get to the selection process you at least have done everything you can to ensure your pool is as diverse as possible. We're partnering with some new organizations.

McLaughlin: Specifically on the recruitment side, we are really proud of this partnership with Project Greenlight, which is a Community-Based Organizations (CBO) network of thousands and thousands of counselors at CBOs across the country. We know that CBOs and those counselors really provide a lot of information and support to under-resourced and under-served students from all backgrounds, and we see that as a really powerful asset in our efforts to try and bring in a diverse prospect pool and create the most diverse applicant pool that we possibly can. On the selection side of things, we no longer have that checkbox…so that just simply won't be available to us. We are continuing as we have done in the past to lean into aspects of other aspects of diversity as well. We've always been interested in socio-economic diversity, trying to increase access for students coming from lower income backgrounds, first generation college students, that is something that we are going to continue to do… On our application, we are inviting students to talk a little bit about this to share a little bit more about who they are their experience… how they feel their individual experience can continue to contribute to the broader experience of students in the Hamilton community, and how the Hamilton community is going to have an impact on who they are.

Story continued on page 3

If we believe the benefit of diversity is the opportunity to learn from one another, we're leaning into that and we want to understand how our applicants and how our future students are thinking about that as well.

The conversation about legacy admissions has gotten louder after this decision. What did legacy look like at Hamilton beforehand and is it changing at all?

Inzer: We thought you might ask because the media is talking about it. And I think the media and a lot of people misunderstand our process because they think people get in because of one reason. Nobody ever gets in because of their race or ethnicity or SAT score or not supplying a score or where they went to school or where they live or whether they play a sport or where their parents went to school or if they went to school or if they went to Hamilton. No one ever gets in because of one of those things. People get in because they've earned admission in the classroom, they have potential to thrive here and we feel like they are a strong candidate. From within the strong candidates, we're looking at all of these things as we shape a slate of people to invite to join our community.

So I have to say all that as a warm-up for answering your question about legacies in that nobody ever gets in because their parents went here. We feel like we've had a very responsible process and we've appropriately considered this. We have asked people where their parents have gone to school. It's optional on the Common Application to provide that now. If and when they do and if it's Hamilton, we have noted it to ensure they're getting every possible consideration, but in no way does that guarantee admission. In fact, sometimes we're considering that information so that we can be more sensitive when we don't admit people than when we can admit them. At any given point, in any class over the past five to six years, 3% to 4% of any class has been comprised of people whose parents attended Hamilton…it's a very small percentage here. There are at least four times as many, as a percentage, that are first generation college students and five times as many who are Pell Grant recipients. So we feel like this has an appropriate space. Nonetheless, there's a spotlight on it right now. And we're of course looking at it and ensuring that our practice is something that we can feel okay about. We're talking with the President and the Board about that as well.

Is there anything else you would like to share about this topic?

McLaughlin: Although the Supreme Court made a decision that perhaps we might not agree with, or doesn't resonate with how we've approached the work, we move forward, and we're going to do everything that we can do in order to continue to enroll the best and most diverse classes.

Inzer: Right now there's a spotlight on the college admission process, but what I hope this does is put a spotlight on all the stuff that happens before the college admission process, the uneven preparation, the uneven access to resources. Maybe it's even before kindergarten, it's healthcare, it's schooling, education, resources, funding. If more could go into the front end to level the playing field before people get to the college application process, we wouldn't feel the need to consider as many of these aspects or be as disappointed about not being able to. But, at the moment, all of that context helps us make informed decisions. And thus, that's the disappointment with the Supreme Court's ruling at this point, but we'll see where this goes. And we're going to do the best we can with the information we have.

Local children trick-or-treat at Hamilton

by Sarafina Madden '26
STAFF WRITER

Every year Hamilton's Newman Council, a Catholic organization on campus, invites children and families affiliated with the Theo Bowman House and the Midtown Utica Community Center, two community centers based in Utica, to trick-or-treat on campus. This year, flocks of children dressed in a range of consumes arrived on campus in the evening, excited to relish in Halloween festivities. This annual trick-or-treat tradition usually amounts to 100 kids. The Newman Council coined this tradition as "Trust Treat" in honor of Eric Trust '92, a member of the 1992 Hamilton class who died unexpectedly on Halloween day during his first year at Hamilton. Trust Treat finds funding from the Class of '92 and the Trust family and has been a tradition for the past 31 years.

Co-President Kirk Petrie '25 explained that "the idea of the event is to give people the chance to go trick-or-treating that otherwise might not have the chance to." Co-President Madeleine Cerone '26 added that the community organizations involved in the event are "also committed to giving kids a safe and fulfilling Halloween experience." As soon as the trick-or-treaters arrive on campus, the Council divides the children into groups and assigns them a student tour guide. Cerone estimated the age range of children participating in the event as being between five and 12 years of age.

Traversing almost the entirety of campus, groups stopped to trick-or-treat in dark and light side dorms, making a grand total of 50 stops. Hannah Turner '26, a tour guide from the night, attested that "there were so many kids saying this was their first time trick-or-treating and saying this was the best night of their lives." She reflected on the experience of the night, explaining that "it felt so heartwarming to know we could have such an impact."

Another tour guide, Katherine Stevens '26, shared that "a good moment from the night was when we saw kids we trick-or-treated [with] last year and they gave us hugs. One girl said she still had the hat I gave her last year," revealing just how great an impact this night has on the children participating. Bella Carioscia '26, shared that "through this opportunity we had the chance to impact the community that Hamilton is in."

Along their route, groups had the chance to stop in the Science Center to watch a chemistry experiment conducted by students. Cerone comments that the scene was "a mad scientist sort of thing." The event drew participation from both students handing out candy in their dorms and organizations on campus, such as the Men's Basketball Team, which set up a trick-or treating post in a classroom in List for the evening. Trust Treat inspired Halloween spirit across campus as Cerone asserted that "people around campus are excited about the event–decorating and dressing up." Extensive planning went into Trust Treat. Co-President Ethan Connolly '25 shared that the Council spent $630 on candy at Target. Petrie explained that ironing out the logistics for the event proved stressful but he attested that once everyone arrived on campus at 5:30, it "all felt worth it."

PHOTO BY NIKKI GREENBERG '25

Amelia Brown '25 prepares to welcome this year's Trust Treat trick-or-treaters.

Dear Hamilton Community,

We hope you're doing well. Just a few more weeks until we're off to Thanksgiving break! As a reminder, class registration is coming up next week, don't forget to check your webadvisor portal to see what time you will be able to register.

Halloween was a great success. If you're one of the lucky students who found a golden ticket in your Parkhurst chocolate bar, make sure to claim your prize (and thank the workers who made the whole thing possible).

The on-campus play *Concord Floral* directed by Emily K. Harrison, is coming up. Performances are Nov. 3-4 and Nov. 8-11 at 7:30 pm, Nov. 4 and Nov. 11 at 2:00 pm, in Romano Theatre in KTSA. You can buy your tickets online—only $4 for students! Larry Gottheim is also coming to campus on Nov. 5 from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm to present a selection of short films in the Bradford Auditorium as a part of the F.I.L.M series.

As always, if you are looking to join *The Spectator* team as a Staff Writer, Copy Editor, or Photographer email us at spec@hamilton.edu. We are also still looking for a Marketing Director to engage with the local community and nearby businesses to assist in our Advertisements section.

Our podcasts are here! Search History is hosted by Stella O'Brien '24 and Hannah Jablons '24, where our hosts dive into the quirky corners of their curious minds. The Arts & Entertainment podcast, hosted by Max Bratter '25 and Allen Underwood '25, spotlights up-and-coming artists and comments on today's music scene. Check out the QR codes below to listen!

Sincerely,
The Spectator

Search History Podcast:

A&E Podcast:

Follow us!
Insta: @hcspectator
Twitter: @hcspectator

Visit us online!
spec.hamilton.edu

Celebrating 157 years,
we *were first published as* The Hamilton Campus *in 1866.*

The Spectator

Editors-in-Chief
Eric Moss
Anoushka Aswin

Managing Editors
Lily Rizzoli
Alex Kropaneva

News Editor
Nicole Greenberg
Sadie Chase-Tatko

Investigative Reporting Editor
Billy Marin
Elizabeth Herr

Features Editor
Mikaella Tortusa

Opinion Editors
William Rampe
Gregoire Winston

Sports Editor
Owen Lewis

A&E Editor
Max Bratter

Social Media Editor
Raymond Ni

Production Editors
Nicholas Cackett
Alison Isko

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Alumni Spotlight: Thomas Meehan ’51

by Mikaella Tortusa ’25
FEATURES EDITOR

In honor of the Hamilton Archives receiving an annotated manuscript of the hit Broadway musical “Annie,” it seemed fitting to shine a light on playwright Thomas Meehan ’51. The three-time Tony Award-winning writer grew up in in Ossining, N.Y. as the son of a nurse and businessman. He majored in English at Hamilton College, worked for *The Spectator*, played basketball and was a member of Theta Delti Chi, where he was known for his party spirit. Meehan’s first published sentence was “somewhere down the street, someone dropped a milk bottle,” which appeared in *The Continental* in 1950. Meehan’s yearbook biography states that his interests include “contemporary literature, music, women, and the contents of bottles. Getting a maximum of success with a minimum of effort from his academic endeavors, the Coach has played football, basketball, and vanquished the best poke players Hamilton has to offer.”

For Meehan, Hamilton opened up a huge window into another world that he had not experienced before. He discovered serious music, different types of literature and found all sorts of “marvelous treasure.” He credited Hamilton for teaching him the foundations of writing, the very slow process of practicing over and over again until the writing finally clicked for him. He advised writers that “to do a great deal of reading in all kinds of areas; all kinds of reading; everything…all areas and all histories and all cultures [are] very important to a writer. Really if you’re serious about writing you should know what’s been written.” Meehan fell in love with William Faulkner’s work and tried to write like he did, but veered into comedy instead. He also wrote and starred in a comedic Hamilton show, which would be his last stage appearance. Grateful for his time on the Hill, Meehan would later establish the Thomas E. Meehan Prize in Creative Writing, which is given out each spring.

When reflecting on his time at Hamilton, Meehan hoped that the College maintained its standards. He advocated for a liberal education, claiming that it is the most valuable thing that anybody can have in this world. He felt that if “you go through college and you just learn to work the computer or any kind of specialization, you really aren’t getting what college should offer a person. Those 4 years should be spent in looking into all kinds of areas and exploring and finding yourself.” He greatly enjoyed the small class sizes, which he believed fostered intimacy and a special, personal connection. To Meehan, Hamilton became a sort of second home; perhaps that is why, he thinks, so many Hamilton graduates return to the Hill. He credits the feeling of isolation on the Hill, especially in the cold winter, for creating such a close bond among students and faculty—the “monastic sort of life where you’re involved with learning, drinking beer and chasing girls, but still, there’s a lot of chance for contemplation and thinking and exploring and becoming truly educated.”

After graduating from Hamilton, Meehan served in the Army and then began his career as the writer for the *New Yorker*. When asked about the source of his humor Meehan replied, “I don’t know. They say humor has a lot of hostility. I probably do but I’ve traveled so much that I don’t really have any left. I came from a sort of witty family. My father was a very witty man; my mother was witty. It may be some kind of Irish tale-telling tradition of humor.” His 1962 short story “Yma Dream” caught the attention of actors Anne Bancroft and Mel Brooks who worked with Meehan to create a television sketch comedy that earned an Emmy award. A decade later, Meehan was approached to adapt the comic strip “Little Orphan Annie” into a musical. Despite initial hesitation, Meehan accepted the project and received the first of his Tony Awards.

Meehan stated that his time at Hamilton influenced his inspiration for *Annie*. As a student, he was quite interested in history, particularly the history of 20th century America and the Roosevelt era. For Meehan, the character Annie served as a metaphor for the goodness, honesty and integrity of the government—values that he believed Franklin D. Roosevelt embodied. Meehan conducted a lot of research for *Annie* by searching through libraries and becoming familiar with 1933 and the slang used at that time. He valued historical accuracy in plays and hated movies where actors used the wrong slang, feeling that it was a “violation of some kind of principle of reality.” Overall, Meehan’s liberal arts education both inspired and bolstered his stage adaptation for *Annie*.

After *Annie*, Meehan and Mel Brooks would also work together to create *The Producers*, a 2001 Broadway hit that would win 13 Tony Awards. In 2002, Meehan worked with author Mark O’Donnell to make a stage adaptation of *Hairspray* which would earn Meehan his second Tony award. In total, Meehan holds the distinction of having three productions running simultaneously on Broadway (*Annie*, *Elf* and *Chaplin*), and he is the only writer of the books for three Broadway shows that ran for over 2,000 performances (*Annie*, *The Producers* and *Hairspray*).

Meehan died in August 2017 in his home in Greenwich village at 88 years old. He had two children, three step-children and six grandchildren. He will be remembered as an iconic Broadway writer, a lover of the arts and a beloved Hamilton alumnus

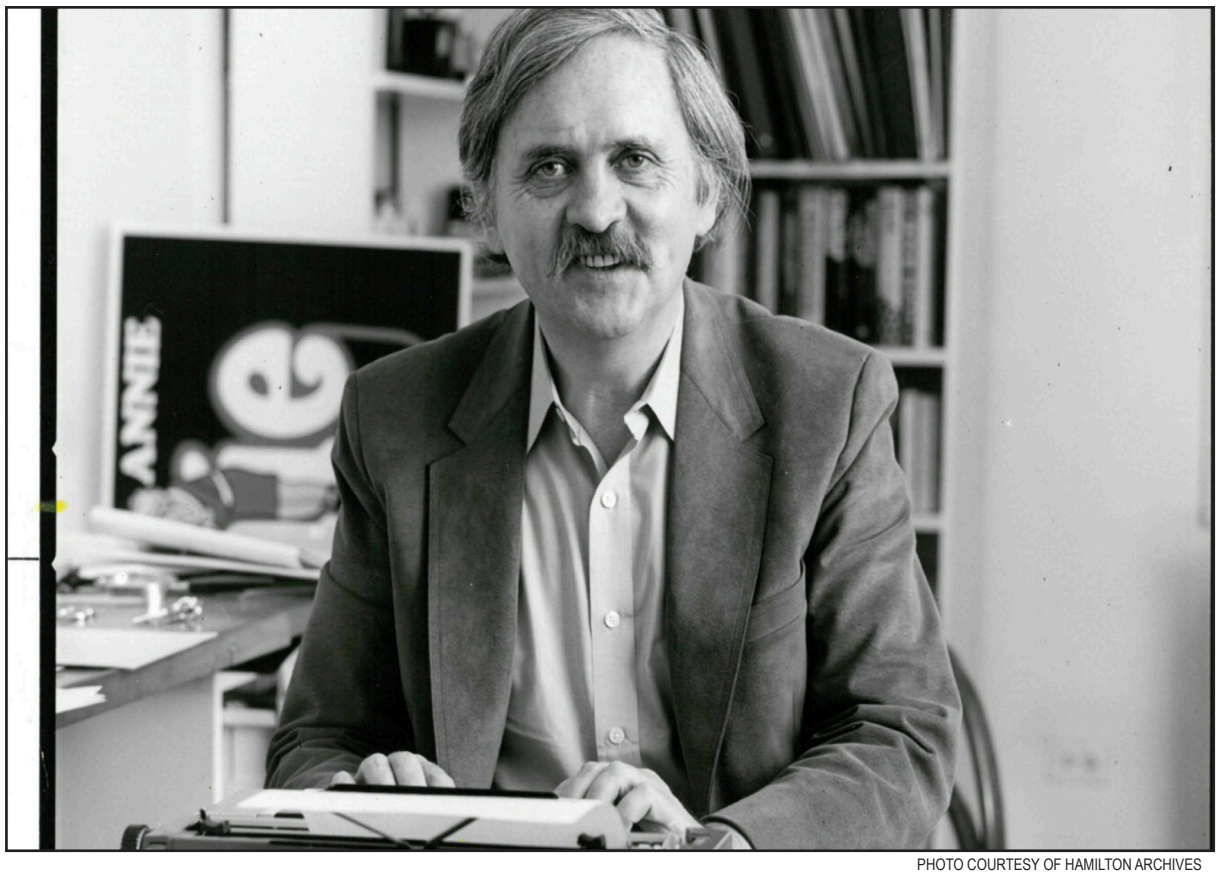


PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON ARCHIVES

Playwright Thomas Meehan was a Hamilton graduate of the Class of 1951.

Weekly Hamilton Horoscopes

by Mikaella Tortusa ’25
RESIDENT ASTROLOGIST

Aries
Do not take things at face value today. It is possible that someone is lying to look good or save face. It is important to learn the facts before you make any decisions. Do some research.

Taurus
Being a good leader means knowing your weaknesses. You do not want to admit it, but you are not amazing at everything, and that is okay. Acknowledge your limitations and let others help.

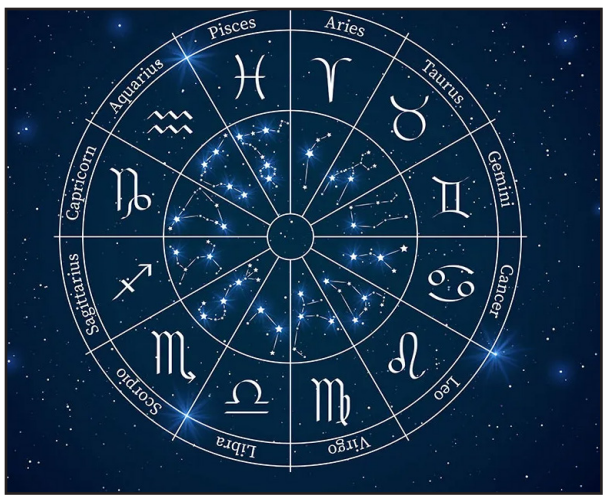


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITANNICA

Gemini
Do not take your relationships for granted. If you think someone is unhappy and it involves you, do whatever you can to remedy it. It might only take a little communication to sort it out.

Cancer
You might have to make a tough decision today. It may sound cliche, but try to follow your heart. Letting others influence you will only cause you to resent them later. Stand firm.

Leo
You could be a bit overconfident today. Keep your outlook realistic. Your mistaken interpretation of a compliment could lead to an embarrassing situation. Laugh it off and move on.

Virgo
Be firm with someone who is not doing their fair share. You do not have to be mean, but you can be clear. Do not be afraid to point out when someone’s behavior is unacceptable.

Libra
As much as you want to leap into battle, it is best to stay out of the line of fire. Stay out of this one and let others fight on their own.

Scorpio
The timing might not be right for your latest endeavor. That does not mean you should not continue to put your energy into it. Stay the course and the results will come in time.

Sagittarius
Are you driving someone crazy because you keep changing your mind? One minute you are sure and the next you are doubtful. It is time to make a decision or this could go on forever.

Capricorn
Get to the heart of the matter today. No more beating around the bush. An important relationship could be hanging in the balance, and you need to be sure it is salvaged in time.

Aquarius
Your patience could be tested today if someone blatantly disrespects you. Do not be afraid to stand up for yourself and make it clear you will not tolerate that behavior.

Pisces
You are making good progress even though things seem to be going too slowly for your taste. Be prepared for some good news in the near future.

Weekly Unsolicited

by Candidus
RESIDENT VOICE OF WISDOM

The “Weekly Unsolicited” features advice that no one asked for, but everyone needs

1. Say bye-bye to spooky month, it will be missed. That said, candy prices are going to be marked down, so you know what that means.

2. Have you recently been ghosted? It can be tough but remember that you can never truly know what is happening in another person’s life or mind, so do not try. Their reason for disappearing might not have anything to do with you. Trying to find an explanation to justify their disappearance will prove an impossible task. It is cliché, but time will heal the emotional sting.

3. If you hear weird noises at night, make weirder noises to assert dominance.

4. Not every animal would make a good emotional support animal. I love seeing all the cats and dogs around campus (I even saw a guy’s mouse enclosure at one point), but you have to consider if you have the time and resources to take care of a large dog while you have all your classes and extracurricular activities. Has your pet mastered basic training commands? Are they alright with being stuck in a small dorm room for most of the day? Do you think they are happier with you than back home? And for people considering reptiles for pets (I am a snake lover, so this is definitely not biased), do you actually have all the equipment? Hides, water bowls, proper substrate, a hygrometer and a fridge to put your pet’s frozen food are essential. Anyway, rant over—I enjoy seeing pets, but I always have to think about whether or not the animal is truly happy at Hamilton.

5. If you break your bone in two places, avoid going to those places again.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMERANT

The use of inflammatory and genocidal language by public officers holds power

by Stephen Kelly '24
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Let me first state that the attack perpetrated by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023 was wrong. It was heinous and itself a war crime. I express zero sympathy for an organization that openly calls for the slaughter of innocent people because of their ethnicity and religion. As many have said before, this attack has no justification. Anyone who would seek to justify these acts should sit with themselves and have a moment of deep introspection.

This being said, I caution all to not view this attack in a vacuum. Like every other uptick in war between Israel and Hamas, it must be viewed in the appropriate context—75 years of shared history. In the aftermath of the attack, American and Israeli public officials have been seen calling for what amounts to genocide of the Palestinian people. Throughout this article, I will focus on American politicians. Normally I would give no credence to these comments, but as the bodies of Palestinian children continue to pile up, their pictures flooding my X and Instagram timelines, I believe these statements might be becoming reality. As reported by numerous news organizations, Senator Lindsey Graham was quoted as saying "We're in a religious war here. I am with Israel. Do whatever the hell you have to do to defend yourself. Level the place." If you thought that was bad, wait for this: earlier in that interview, Graham said "Gaza is going to look like Tokyo and Berlin at the end of World War II when this is over, and if it doesn't look that way, Israel made a mistake. I expect Gaza to be occupied by the Israelis for years to come." Under the United Nations Convention, genocide is characterized both physically and mentally. For the mental element, there must be an "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group" followed by the physical element of which there are five, but the first two are clear and present: killing members of the group and causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group. While this is true for any war, when paired with the language of Senator Graham, a member of the Appropriation Committee that oversees defense spending, it raises genuine concerns. On Oct. 13, 2023, Graham did try to walk back his previous comment, but he spoke his truth the first time.

On a similar note, Representative Max Miller of Ohio said in an Oct. 13 *Fox News* interview that "Israel needs to take the gloves off, murder is murder and terrorism is terrorism, turn the place into a parking lot. I believe Israel will get a lot bigger, not smaller." This falls in line with what was said in another *Fox News* interview a few days prior. Representative Brian Mast of Florida said, "in a couple of days or even in a couple of weeks, you're going to have Palestinians put up pictures of what they will say are civilians even though they targeted civilians…We need to support Israel until the body count is 5,000, 10,000, 15,000, whatever it is until they kill every last terrorist." With this, we see a common right-wing conflation between being Palestinian and supporting Hamas terrorism. Back when Hamas gained power in 2006, 50 percent of Palestinians were children. Just like we do not hold Americans responsible for the actions of our national government and the Israeli people responsible for their own government's actions, we must do the same with Palestinians. Furthermore, Palestinians have not had an election since 2006, so a change in government is out of the picture. In other words, the current government in power, who is a main target of Israeli airstrikes, is illegitimate.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said in yet another *Fox News* interview that "it [Gaza] all has to end up looking like Hamburg or Dresden or Tokyo at the end of World War II. What they have to do is allow everybody who is a civilian to leave and basically build places in the desert as refugee centers long enough to clean out Gaza, track down every single Hamas member, and not allow powerful people back in. But, if people refuse to leave, they're in effect siding with Hamas, and then they are going to suffer the consequences of siding with Hamas." Upon closer inspection of the war, this seems to be what is happening as Israel continues to launch air strikes that have killed over 6,000 Palestinian civilians so far. If these comments made by Republican politicians are taken seriously by Israeli officials, it will amount to genocide.

Wrong is wrong. When I was a child, my mother and countless adults instilled in me that two wrongs do not make a right. In most cases, I still had to learn that the hard way. It is easy to condemn Hamas when it calls for the total annihilation of Jews, but can we all do the same with American officials who call for the extermination of Palestinians?

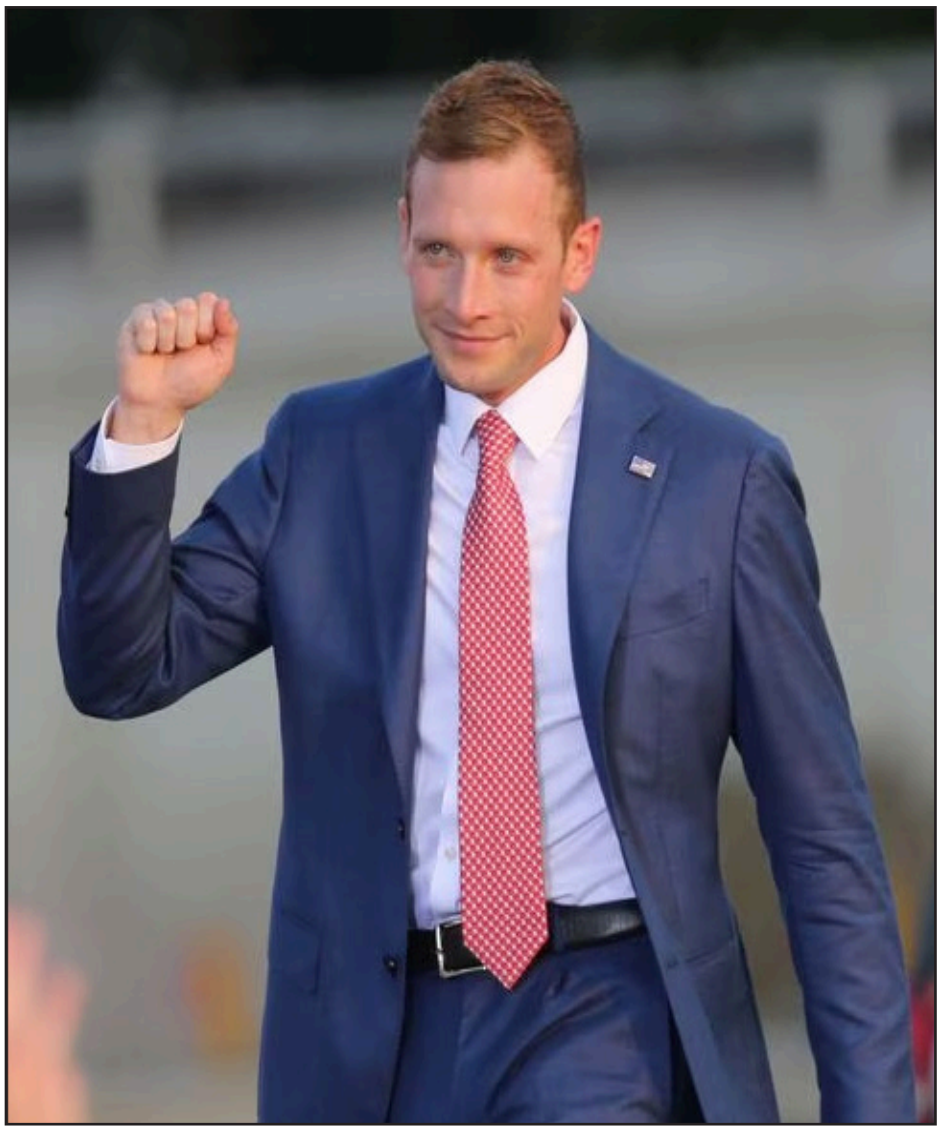


PHOTO COURTESY OF AL.COM

Representative Max Miller has indicated his support for Israel's offensive into the Gaza Strip after Hamas's terrorist attacks.

MF DOOM doesn't like hip-hop

by Max Bratter '25
A&E EDITOR

MF DOOM is disinterested in hip-hop. MF DOOM is not uninterested in hip-hop. While these two claims may seem contradictory, they sincerely capture the essence of what makes DOOM's music special.

DOOM came up during New York's Native Tongues hip-hop movement as a young member of the duo KMD, alongside iconic outfits like A Tribe Called Quest and De La Soul. KMD featured MF DOOM, or Daniel Dumile, as Zev Love X and his brother, DJ Subroc. Subroc was fatally struck by a vehicle at the peak of the group's career, and the death haunted Dumile for years. It initiated a downward spiral and a reclusive nature within Dumile that eventually spawned his resurgence as DOOM. DOOM's first solo album, Operation Doomsday (Complete) (1999), showcases Dumile in green-cloaked attire that is reminiscent of Marvel character "Doctor Doom," and DOOM would soon don a mask that was inspired by the film *Gladiator* (2000). "Doctor Doom" (a.k.a Viktor Vaughn) wore his mask to hide his mangled and deformed body, while Maximus (in *Gladiator*) wore his to simultaneously cover his identity while evoking strength. In both cases, each character felt a personal compulsion for a return to public life but one that was on their own terms. This is exactly what DOOM is doing with his first LP. KMD's label, Elektra Records, tussled with DOOM over the release of the group's final album, consequently disaffecting DOOM from mainstream music, opting for a more independent route from then on. DOOM spent his early solo career creating a foundation of principles that would guide not only how he approached the rest of his years rapping, but for how listeners should interpret his rhymes. On "?," featuring Kurious, DOOM establishes the groundwork for the substance of his character and musical stylization: "By candlelight my hand will write these rhymes 'til I'm burnt out/ Mostly from experience, s**t that I learned about/Topics and views, generally concerned about/With different ways to come up and earn clout/I take a look at my life and pace the trails."

DOOM's use of past experiences to direct his initiatives for the future elicits an irreverent parallel with the creation of the United States Constitution. Following the Articles of Confederation, two factions arose that eventually dominated its reformative conceptual discourse: Anti-Federalists and Federalists. Federalists wanted Anti-Federalists to give their proposed Constitution the benefit of the doubt in terms of the meaning of its minutia. Anti-Federalists were vehemently opposed to this, and proposed further analysis of the Constitutional plan in a disinterested light. This meant that Anti-Federalists desired as objective an outlook as possible within the new Constitution's creation; it implied that all parties' interests, even those who were not directly involved in its creation, should not be overlooked. If Anti-Federalists merely accepted the face-value sentiments of the original Federalist outline, that would have been an uninterested approach; one that is careless and is executed in a manner that suggests their stake in the matter is not significant enough to compel discussion.

Why is the creation of America's foundational documents relevant to MF DOOM, a rapper? It is because MF DOOM's lyrics and music are his personal constitution of expression, and DOOM has the same attitude toward it as Anti-Federalists did toward the U.S. Constitution. Dumile is known for his various personas: King Geedorah, Viktor Vaughn and MF DOOM. While these seem like disparate modes of creative expression, they are actually coping mechanisms for his own aforementioned biographical story in the music industry. The precedents set by DOOM's past experiences inform his future. Similarly, Anti-Federalists did not want to accept the repetition of a dominant group setting the rules for others (as they did for the Articles), just as DOOM does not want to conform to the standard public-facing existence of the music industry.

This is what ultimately established the baseline for how DOOM raps. DOOM cannot tolerate corporate hip-hop, but rapping is his natural talent and he feels an innate responsibility to use it for revenge, as well as personal introspection. He is uninterested in the genre as a whole because of his received maltreatment and trauma, both in the music industry and with his brother's passing. Although, when he decided to return, he chose to commit to a craft that is wholly Daniel Dumile with all his respective idiosyncrasies. DOOM's rejection of the music industry's commercial commingling is captured by his 2011 interview with the Red Bull Music Academy, where he states that "I don't really listen to current hip-hop where I know who is who, to the point where I'd say, "I want a beat from this dude, I'd like to work with this cat." Later in the interview, DOOM references his alter-egos when joking that "there's a little rap beef starting right now between DOOM and Vik [Viktor Vaughn]. Vik is plotting on him 'cause he's jealous." DOOM sees himself as his only competition and that is his way of remaining objective, like the Anti-Federalists, about his curative process. While other rappers write for hits or to belittle one of their musical adversaries, DOOM is constantly metaphorically, and in the last example literally, battling with himself. And it is this discourse that produces the music, his personal Constitution, that we are all so fond of.

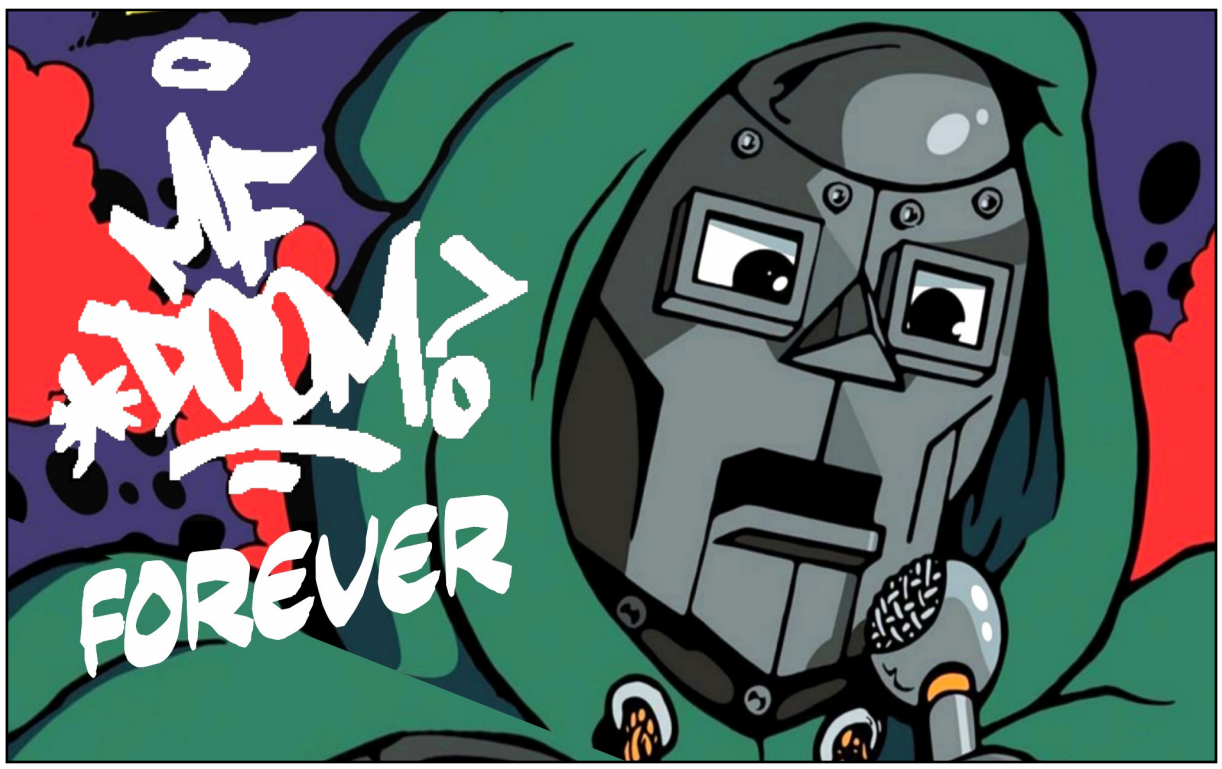


PHOTO COURTESY OF LAIST

MF Doom was an extravagant contemporary rapper who couldn't be placed in a box.

Wellin gets spooky at HalloWellin

by Eliza Roberts '24
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday night, The Wellin Museum of Art kicked off Hamilton's Halloween festivities with their very own HalloWellin event. The museum drew inspiration from its current exhibition by Rhona Bitner's Resound which hosts photographs of the stages and studios that shaped American music. The exhibition inspired the name of this year's theme: "On Hallowed Ground." The main entertainment of the night was a band club showcase that included our on-campus bands dressed up right on theme. The invitation for HalloWellin suggested that its attendants "get into the spirit with a costume inspired by classic rock and rollers!" Students came in droves dressed in their finest exhibition-related costumes; some opted for cowboy hats or clown wigs while others chose to rock on with their favorite band tees. Some students also decided to use their wardrobes to bring their own favorite artists to life. For example, a pair of students decided to dress up as Stevie Nicks and Mick Fleetwood! The Wellin offered a face painting station that helped turn students into their favorite punk artists and a button station to make punk rock pins. For those all punked out, attendees could sit down with some autumnal sparkling cider and a range of ghouly hors d'oeuvres.

Upon walking into the museum, there were tables with all the refreshments one could need to fuel up before the show or take a break after. Music poured out from the back as the bands jammed on guitars, drums and piano paired with incredible singing that rocked the house down! Students were directed to walk through the exhibit before reaching the main event, so if they hadn't gotten a chance to visit the wonderful new exhibit, they could take some time to check out its photos. For Bitner, the motivation behind her pieces is for "viewers to imagine themselves within the spaces and situations the work depicts so that the photographs will spark their own memories and experiences. This synergy is the pulse of the work." The performances praised and fulfilled this motivation by using the very space of the exhibit to not only spark memories of past experiences but create new moments of performance that will last in the students' memories. The music filled the exhibit with the very "synergy" that inspired Bitner's work.

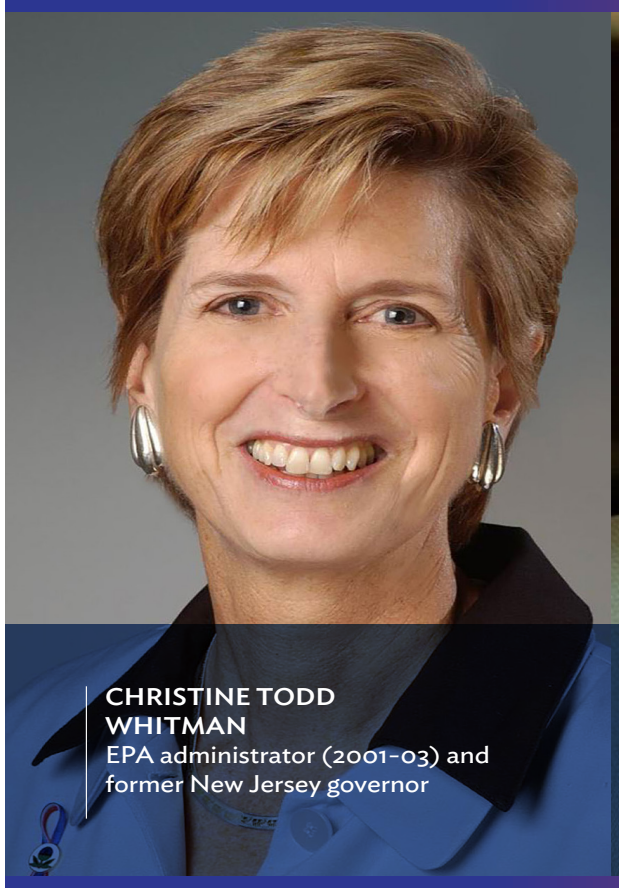
Wandering through the exhibit, the photos of studios and performance spaces created a musical mood and right in the back of the room was the Wellin's very own concert packed with people singing and dancing the night away. The bands used the performance area of the exhibit to create a small concert venue in the back of the museum. The venue could barely hold all of its visitors and the seats were all filled with people spilling over the sides to make room for their best dance moves. People who gathered both on the seats and on the sidelines were breaking out their favorite dances to jam out to the bands' renditions of some classic favorites. Some of these crowd-pleasers included a couple recognizable tunes such as "Love Story" by Taylor Swift and "You and I" by Lady Gaga. If the students needed a break from the dancing, they could take a seat in the padded sound room that allowed them to experience a mellowed version of the performance.

The night brought together Rhona Bitner's exhibit and the spirit of Halloween to sing a final farewell to fall as students prepare for a snowy Hamilton and the arrival of all things winter will bring to the Hill.

COMMON GROUND
Cross-boundary dialogue on hot-button political issues.

THE PATHWAY *to* ENERGY TRANSITION

Climate Change, Energy Transitioning



CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
EPA administrator (2001–03) and former New Jersey governor

GINA MCCARTHY
former White House national climate advisor & former EPA administrator

Moderator: AARON STRONG
assistant professor of environmental studies

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 6
7:30 P.M.
CHAPEL
hamilton.edu/commonground

Hamilton

COFFEE & COOKIES *with* COMMON GROUND
4 P.M.
SADOVE LIVING ROOM
Reception open to the campus community

The College is grateful to Mary Helen and Robert Morris '76, P'16,'17; Eve Niquette and Charles Pohl P'20,'25; and Lori and David Hess '77 for their generous support of Common Ground.

Common Ground is a multi-format program to help prepare students for active citizenship. Designed to explore cross-boundary political thought and complex social issues, Common Ground brings highly respected thought leaders to the Hamilton campus to participate in small classroom dialogues and large event discussions. Topics intertwined with the College's curriculum are chosen to foster critical thinking and holistic examination of difficult and often contentious national and global policy issues.

South Africa beats New Zealand to earn fourth World Cup title

by Owen Lewis '24
SPORTS EDITOR

South Africa completed one of the most cinematic arcs in a Rugby World Cup to date on Oct. 28, beating their longtime rivals in New Zealand 12-11 to win the tournament for the fourth time. The final was excruciatingly close, but it arguably may not even have been South Africa's closest shave of the tournament: they won their quarterfinal and semifinal by the same slim one-point margin, and played most of the latter on the back foot. South Africa were unable to score a point in the second half of the final and nearly saw their early 12-3 lead disappear completely, but in the vital moments of the game, they performed to their best.

There has been an air of inevitability surrounding South Africa since they edged out host nation France 29-28 in the quarterfinals. I thought New Zealand would win the final, but from the moment Handre Pollard's nervous first kick of the night took a lucky bounce off the post and through the uprights to put South Africa ahead 3-0, some unseen force seemed to be on their side. New Zealand helped out with some crucial errors. Their captain, Sam Cane, managed to get himself red-carded inside the first half hour, an almost unforgivable error given his stature and the occasion. Richie Mo'unga missed a conversion that would have put New Zealand ahead and Jordie Barrett missed a potentially game-winning penalty kick a little while later. Both were difficult kicks—not automatic by any means—but in a World Cup final, with the margins between victory and defeat so small, missing both kicks was fatal.

As a New Zealand fan, maybe it is selfish to be thinking about those missed opportunities after such a dramatic final. Still, the litany of chances they had to win is going to stick with me for a long time. Despite playing the lion's share of the final with a man down, they spent ample time in South Africa's territory and seemed a constant threat to score in the second half of the game, only to turn over the ball or give away a penalty with a lapse in discipline. The loss would have been easier to take if South Africa had ruthlessly punished New Zealand's sloppiness and won by 30—instead, New Zealand battled back and looked the stronger team down the stretch, only to fall ever so slightly short.

Though I did not want them to win, South Africa's storyline this tournament has been nothing short of scintillating. Winning each elimination game by a single point is not only without precedent in World Cup history, but would sound like fiction had I not watched it happen. What better way to win the biggest trophy in the sport? South Africa were never at their best in this tournament, but, as I wrote last week, being able to win under suboptimal conditions is arguably a bigger mark of a champion than performing well on your best day. They are not the best-ever World Cup team—that honor probably goes to New Zealand in 2015—but they are the most resilient.

Still, my appreciation for South Africa's epic run will not be enough to quell my disappointment at New Zealand's loss. World Cups taking place just once every four years is a cruel trade; fans exchange a few weeks of utter exhilaration for an agonizingly long wait for the next tournament after their team almost inevitably falls short of the trophy. From being in position to kick a winning penalty this past weekend, New Zealand now must go back to the drawing board. Aging veteran players will not be there for the 2027 World Cup. It is a harsh truth of sports and life that you cannot allow yourself to linger too long in the past, or else it will hopelessly distract you from the present and future. And it is hard—lamenting the past is counterproductive, but is often the natural instinct for the heartbroken. How to set aside the pain of coming so close to the biggest prize in rugby when another chance will not come for four years?

Forget four years, the week after a big game is more than enough time to obsess over all the opportunities the losing team had to win. Missed kicks and fumbled passes have been streaming through my mind, irretrievable chances left behind. During the event itself, even when New Zealand's chances looked bleak, I was oddly calm, like I had been looking at a tape from 2007 rather than watching the final in real time. New Zealand were so error-prone that I found myself without complaint towards their eventual loss; South Africa, despite their more difficult run to the final, were the more accurate and disciplined team. The eventual scoreline reflected that. When the final whistle blew, I was at peace. Only now is the pain setting in.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM JENKINS/THE OBSERVER/THE GUARDIAN

The South Africa Springboks celebrate winning the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

Women's soccer completes impressive season

by Andrew Brennan '25
STAFF WRITER

After a narrow loss against Williams in the NESCAC Championship Quarterfinal, Hamilton's Women's Soccer team's season has come to an end. The game was decided in a penalty shootout after both teams remained scoreless in two overtimes following regulation where they were tied 1-1. The Williams Ephs advanced on penalty kicks 4-2, marking an unfortunate ending for the Continentals. Overall, Hamilton went 8-4-4, going 3-4-3 against other teams in their conference.

The team scored roughly 1.4 goals per game, scoring 22 goals throughout the whole season. Erin Rayhill '25 statistically led the team on offense with four goals as well as four assists. Maddie Ledbury '26 and Olivia Morrow '24 tied for second in total goals scored with three each, while Olivia Zubarik '25 had three assists on the season. The Continentals scored in all but three of their games, scoring more than once nine times and scoring more than twice once in their resounding win over Utica University.

Defensively, the Continentals held their opponent scoreless in regulation six times, with their opponents averaging just under 1.1 goals per game. Hamilton's defense was anchored by their two primary goalkeepers, Nieve Tonna '26 and Clare Robinson '25. Tonna independently played ten games including the playoff game against Williams, while Robinson independently played three games. In both the fifth and ninth games, they each played one half. First-year Olivia Connolly '27 played goalkeeper in the final game of the regular season against Mount Saint Mary in a win. Tonna led the group in saves with 55, allowing just 12 goals in the 12 games she played. Robinson had 17 saves with just four goals allowed in the five games she played in. Both Tonna and Robinson had a save percentage of just over 80 percent, which allowed the Continentals to almost always have a chance late in games.

The Continentals started the season almost as well as a team could, going 5-0-3 in their first eight games. Both their first game of the season against Williams and their second against Trinity ended in ties. The first game was sealed by a save by Robinson in the ninetieth minute to preserve the even score, while the second game saw Morrow score the team's first goal of the season. Afterward, the Continentals caught fire with a three-game winning streak, beating Oswego State, Middlebury and Utica University. The next game against Tufts, a start of a stretch of five in-conference matchups on their schedule, saw Ledbury even the score with just under ten minutes remaining, preserving their unbeaten season up to that point. Two more wins against Wesleyan and Connecticut College capped off the Continentals' dominant first half of the season. However, in their final seven games of the season (not including their playoff loss), the Continentals went 3-4, losing to four NESCAC teams: Bates, Colby, Bowdoin and Amherst. But because of their very strong start to the season, they were still able to make the playoffs.

Two seasons ago, the Continentals had a very successful season, going 14-3-2 and losing in the second round of the NCAA Championship after being ranked 17th nationally. Last year they had less success, going 7-4-4 and not making the playoffs at all. This year was definitely a great step in the right direction as they won more games, made the playoffs and had a great chance to make the second round.

Captain Lauren Hanna '25 summarized the season by saying, "Even though the ending of the season really stung, I think we're all happy with how the season went…Team chemistry and morale were really great this year, which definitely helped us on the field as well." This optimism and belief in the team can hopefully continue Hamilton's push to further success in the coming years. Looking forward to next season, Hanna said, "I think the biggest thing we can improve on is playing both halves—both halves of a game and both halves of the season…We just need to be more consistent and I think our mental game plays a big role in this." She emphasized that this consistency and mental toughness is what will help the team when things are not going their way. After a good season with a tough loss in the playoffs, the Continentals have a solid foundation to build off of for the next year, where they must continue where their two graduating captains, Katie Powell '24 and Kelly Grossman '24, have left off. The Continentals were consistently competitive in every game, with many great moments throughout the season, which is certainly encouraging going forward.

PHOTO BY JOSH MCKEE

Abby Douglass '27, pictured above, scored the opening goal in the recent loss to Williams.